

2015 Medals Video Script

The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors institutions that present extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service. Their work makes a real difference for individuals, families, and communities.

The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is awarded by IMLS, the nation's primary source of federal support for museums and libraries. IMLS works toward achieving a democratic society where communities and individuals thrive. It supports broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.

We congratulate the 2015 museum and library honorees and thank them for their exceptional community contributions.

Amazement Square (Lynchburg, VA)

Amazement Square is a hands-on museum in Lynchburg, Virginia, offering four floors of interactive exhibits that make learning fun. The museum places a strong emphasis on programs closely aligned with school curricula, as well as community engagement. A cornerstone of the community, Amazement Square helped drive the economic revitalization of downtown Lynchburg and continues to provide dynamic programs advancing special needs, health, and early learning.

Cecil County Public Library (Elkton, MD)

Located at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Cecil County Public Library is making a critical difference in education, workforce readiness, and economic development. Staff are innovative educators who proactively address community challenges and opportunities. Targeted outreach to lower-income families prevents summer learning loss. The library's Small Business Information Center connects aspiring entrepreneurs to local networks. Specialized classes empower veterans to transition to successful civilian lives.

Craig Public Library (Craig, AK)

The Craig Public Library, located on Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska, provides their community with access to technology literacy programs, and economic opportunities. It offers STEAM activities including robotics, 3D printing, and maker events. The library's seasonal reading programs, discussion groups, and video conferences help children and adults engage, learn, and collaborate.

Embudo Valley Library and Community Center (Dixon, NM)

The Embudo Valley Library, located in the northern New Mexico community of Dixon, focuses on supporting local youth and families. The public library provides the only afterschool and summer reading programs in the area. Its Caterpillar Club Early Literacy program and ¡Ahora! afterschool program promote achievement in the classroom and a positive perception of reading, science, and learning.

Los Angeles Public Library (Los Angeles, CA)

Los Angeles Public Library's 73 locations serve the largest and most diverse population of any library system in the country. To meet the needs of millions of Angelenos, including a significant immigrant population, the library provides tailored social, educational, and cultural services. Its programs advance citizenship and immigrant integration, emergent and adult literacy skills, access to financial and consumer health information, and education success for all ages.

Louisiana Children's Museum (New Orleans, LA)

Louisiana Children's Museum serves the greater New Orleans area by addressing literacy, health, and developmental issues through child-centered approaches that are playful, interactive, and fun. The museum is a convener and collaborator—a place to engage, explore shared objectives, and address community needs. The museum's Play Power program helps children in pre-k through third grade learn, develop, and heal through play-based art, literature, dramatic play, and community projects.

Museum of Northern Arizona (Flagstaff, AZ)

The Museum of Northern Arizona has served the Colorado Plateau's diverse community since 1928, promoting the region's natural and cultural treasures through its collections, exhibitions, educational programs, and scientific research. Children explore the region's natural wonders through its Discovery camps' place-based, scientific learning -- experiencing archaeology and biology. At Diné camp, Navajo youth connect with their tribe's native language. For 82 years, in partnership with Native tribes, the museum has celebrated the region's vibrant cultures through beloved festivals.

New York Hall of Science (New York, NY)

The New York Hall of Science in Queens, New York, was founded at the 1964 World's Fair and has since evolved into a center for interactive science. The museum hosts 450 exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, and participatory activities for STEM learning. The museum provides local children and families access to educational programs that exemplify the Design-Make-Play philosophy of making learning fun, relevant, and meaningful for learners.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York, NY)

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, in Harlem, New York, is an innovative cultural arts and research center within the New York Public Library system. It is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of black life, history, and culture. The Schomburg promotes intellectual discovery through research, innovative programming, cultural performances, and exhibitions. It is recognized as the world's leading repository of materials related to the global black experience.

The Tech Museum of Innovation (San Jose, CA)

The Tech Museum of Innovation is a hands-on technology and science museum in downtown San Jose, California, that aims to inspire the innovator in everyone. Visitors build robots, explore the world of 3-D printing, measure their own bio-metric data, and will soon step into the role of cyber sleuth to learn the skills necessary to keep themselves safe online. Programs like The Tech Challenge help students develop lifelong problem-solving and critical thinking skills and encourage the development of innovative technology for a more promising future.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the outstanding winners of the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by HISTORY.